

whac Focus

WOODLAND HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH (UCC)

A JUST PEACE, OPEN AND AFFIRMING,
AND PROGRESSIVE CONGREGATION

JUNE 2010

A Time to Heal

By Rev. Craig Peterson

June 2010

FROM THE



PASTOR

There are lots of verses in the New Testament/Greek Scriptures that describe different aspects of Jesus' nature. My favorite of these is John 11:35. I like that verse because it reveals a very different aspect of Jesus than is uncovered in most other places in the Gospel. Let me take a moment and put that verse into context for you.

In the first 34 verses of John 11 we hear the story of Lazarus' death and raising. We also hear about the subsequent response by Lazarus' family and friends. Jesus - we are told - was away at the time of Lazarus' death. Upon arriving, he immediately reconnected with Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters. It is in the context of his encounter with the weeping Mary in which verse 35 unfolds. In response to Mary's tears, we are told simply that "Jesus wept".

gram to use the chapel on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM for its weekly grief support group. The support group is free of charge and open to all residents of the Valley. Participants do not need to be members of Kaiser in order to participate. The weekly gatherings will start June 10.

The support group will be a wonderful opportunity for those in our community to follow Jesus' example and process grief in healthy ways. I hope those of you who are in the grieving process will attend the group. I hope you will let your loved ones who are in the midst of a grief process know about the group as well.

I give thanks for the compassionate leaders on the Board of Trustees and Church Council who invited the grief support group on to our church campus. I am confident that those who participate in the group will find expressions of healing that were woven into the story of Mary, Martha & Lazarus.



Peace,
Pastor Craig

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I find that two-word verse memorable because it gives us - the modern followers of Jesus - permission to do something many folks these days don't allow themselves to do: honestly and openly grieve for the loss of a loved one.

In the spirit of that verse, Woodland Hills Community Church has invited the local chapter of Kaiser Permanente's Hospice pro-

People in the Parish

By Signe Hardesty, Pastoral Assistant

The church in its calendar is always looking for seasons of renewal.

This, the season of Pentecost, is another opportunity for us to look at our lives and LIFE around us to gain new insights. Scripture tells us that the disciples were touched by the Spirit in a variety of ways.

After a good night's sleep, sometimes our problems take on a new look of solution. Yea! Or we can be grateful in unexpected ways.

As we ponder our relationship to those new to our country of riches and opportunity and seeking the American Dream, I am led to share with you the following meditation from *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim: A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual* by Edward Hays.

AN ALIEN'S PSALM

I wear the mark of your disapproval
and your often unspoken words
pierce straight to my soul,
"Why didn't you stay where you belong?"

I feel the icy stare that says,
"Keep your distance, you foreigner,
with your different-colored skin
and your strange-sounding speech,
with your culture, food, religion and clothing
that are inferior to my own."

I'm an immigrant, a wetback, an alien,
an outsider operating a sweatshop sewing
machine; cheap labor: unwanted or dirty
jobs are mine for the taking;
I'm one of the countless invisible ones
who puts fresh vegetables on your plate
or stitches the fashion dresses and shirts
that you buy in your stylish stores.

As Moses of old once said, "Remember, you
were once aliens in the land of Egypt,"
remember that your grandfathers and
grandmothers

were immigrant-unwanted,
were exploited cheap labor,
second-class citizens,
uneducated and poor,
used and abused,
ignored or looked down upon
for their foreign religion, speech and food.

The White House,
first house of this great land,
says it well:
white is this land of promise;
no room for other colors or creeds.

Someday we'll paint the first house
in rainbow colors-
someday, not long from now.

* * *

In our WHCC prayers this month, we focus
on significant milestones in our family's experi-
ence...

Chuck Woods has retired;
Ted Whitney is celebrating 90 years young;
Kel Henderson has been installed as Pastor
in the UCC Corona Church;
Former WHCC member Nick Buzolich Jr.
has died;
Long-time and faithful member Opal Bog-
den died. Her memorial service will be
held June 26th;
Posthumously, Eric Paul Eychner is now a
member.

Recent or soon-to-be travelers include:

Kathi & Clark McIlvain
Ruth Abel
Maxine & Walt Wegner

Jim & I welcome Katelena Cybil, infant
daughter of Rick & Joanna, to our nest.

Moderator's Moment

In 2004, it was concluded that there was a present and real need for genuine welcome, openness and acceptance for all within the church. The United Church of Christ (UCC) responded to this call of extravagant welcome and radical hospitality with these words to proclaim to the world that anyone could find a home in the UCC.

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are always welcome here.”

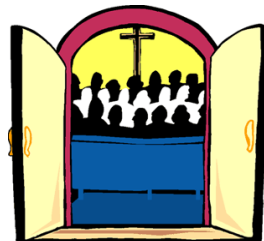
Woodland Hills Community Church together with our sister churches in the UCC, can enthusiastically support and proudly lift up that we are a welcoming, justice-minded Christian community.

Here are a few ways that tells the world that we, the family of WHCC, are about faith and justice, exploration and understanding:

- We are a **Just Peace Church**. The 1985 General Synod called upon all settings of the UCC to be a Just Peace Church. The General Synod defined “just peace” as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence. The Just Peace Pronouncement called the church to a vision of shalom rooted in peace with justice.
- We are a **Progressive Church**. WHCC is proud to be an affiliate congregation of The Center for Progressive Christianity (TCPC). TCPC promotes an understanding of Christian practice and teaching that leads to a greater concern for the way people treat each other than for the way people express their beliefs, the acceptance of all people, and a respect for other religious traditions. We affirm the variety and depth of human experience and the richness of each person’s search for meaning, and we encourage the use of sound scholarship, critical inquiry, and all intellectual powers to understand the presence of God in human life.
- We are an **Open and Affirming** (ONA) congregation. On June 14, 2009 we held a congregational meeting and voted to be an ONA church to declare our welcome and inclusion of our sisters and brothers who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT). Here are the words of our ONA statement:

“We, the congregation of Woodland Hills Community Church (United Church of Christ), declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. We strive to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, marital status, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socioeconomic status. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our congregation’s life in Christ.”

Blessings,
Lyn Owen



Congregational
MEETING

June 13th—after service



WHCC Book Review ~ June 2010

By Betsy Stock Noorzay

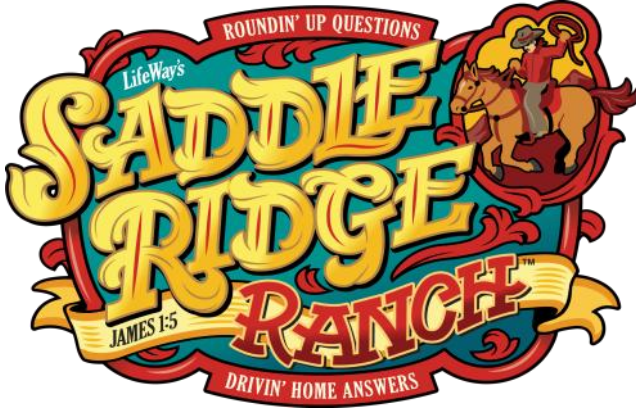


Matthew Fox, the author of *Original Blessing: A Primer in Creation Spirituality*, and the Founder of the Institute of Creation Spirituality, has been inviting folks (including us) to “reclaim” the Cosmic Christ by recognizing that we have responsibility to live as divine co-creators,” artfully, with discernment, compassion and joy. If Jesus were speaking to us today, I can imagine he might be saying: the kingdom of God is all around you wake up and smell the coffee!” Rather than focusing on the historical Jesus of the past, twenty-two years ago, Fox asked us to consider examining the sources for the Cosmic Christ in biblical scripture and envision what could be a “second coming” in the awakening of our spirits as a part of local and global stewardship of the body of the Cosmic Christ. I think Fox celebrates joyfully the fact that we are alive, but wants us, therefore, to live artfully with discernment. Fox, originally a Dominican scholar, and Priest, later on left Catholicism because of its stance on homosexuality and eventually founded The Institute of Culture and Creation Spirituality at Holy Names College in Oakland, California where emphasis has been on celebrating the mystery, ecstasy and uniqueness of the Cosmic Christ or God inherent in all that is (my words). For each of us, to define what we mean by God, the ineffable, yet ever-present Presence, we are informed by our own education and experiential history or lack thereof. However, for those who are curious, and whose interest has been piqued by Fox’s thinking, (or who have an appetite for something both new yet old), much of what Fox bases his own thinking on is rooted in the mystical writings of Meister Eckhart and Hildegard of Bingen. God is described as allusive, ineffable and thus a mystery, yet the ever-present Presence, the Source of all that is, limited only by our own minds and experiences. Eckhart, whom Fox considers a mentor, emphasized oneness, wholeness and unity, a coming together in a unity of creativity, believed one’s soul grows by sub-traction rather than addition. Carl Jung and present day teacher, Joanna Macy, recommend that we become acquainted with this Mystery that resides also in darkness, for suffering can enlarge our souls. Yet, Jung also says it is the mystic who entices us into creative play (which reminds me of June Goudey’s “Divine Imagination”), and Poet and potter, M.C. Richards, who is sort of a mystic herself, says her own words have been “birthed of the silence of the pre-existing word.” With all this consideration of Mystery and Mysticism how are we to live in our down to earth everyday world, using skillful consideration if we immerse ourselves in “Mystery? Fox also considers the scientific story of the origins of our universe, dedicating *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ* to the youth in all of us as he invites us to consider that the “Historical Jesus” was a mystic who taught mysticism. Fox considers this understanding a paradigm shift. He also considers the import of the scientific theories of the origins of our universe, and he finds it full of “fresh air”, dancing imagery, tempered with silence redeeming of Cosmic Pain and in the Divine “I am” in every creature. This ineffable and often illusive Presence is beyond discrete definition, for words have a tendency to both confine and limit the elusiveness of the ineffable. Fox’s books suggest that sensing the Cosmic Christ in our ordinary lives can happen when we and others behave as if we are bread for each other (that we, too, can be, and are called to be that bread). When we “grow into compassion,” sensing “the sufferings as well as the dignity of the Divine One in us, we gradually grow into compassion. In doing so we are participating in the Divine “I-am-with,” you: God with us) This is a dense, rich book (266pp.) with much more to offer than I have suggested here. (230 Fox—Smith Lounge Library call number)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL !

June 21st– June 25th



Woodland Hills Community Church Youth Ministries is presenting our annual Vacation Bible School this summer. Dates are as follows: June 21st to June 25th, from 9am to 12noon for 5 consecutive days, Monday to Friday . Vacation Bible School is for children preschool (or younger if potty trained) thru 6th grade. There will be stories, water games, arts and crafts, music and snacks. Our theme this year is “Country Western,” Sign-up early and get a discount. This is one of our most exciting & memorable events for the children. This will be a great way for children to begin their summer vacation. So Don't Miss Out! Contact: Annette Eddy 818-346-0820 ext. 103 or whccucc@gmail.com

Each day will be FULL of refreshments & fun. Our Goal: To help your child feel a warm and loving connection with God and feel good about themselves thru music, storytelling, and crafts

Day 1 : "What Am I?"

Today we'll hear about the creation story from Genesis 2:4-23. The life application lesson for the day is "I am God's great creation." The take home verse is Psalm 139:14.

Day 2: "Does God care about me?"

Today we'll hear about the way God provided for Joseph in Genesis 45:1-14. The life application lesson is "God cares about me." The take home verse will be 1 Peter 5 :7.

Day 3: "What does God hope for me?"

Today we'll hear about Jesus visit with Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. The life application lesson is "God has hopes for me." The take home verse will be Jeremiah 29:11.

Day 4: "How can I be like Jesus?"

Today we'll hear about ways in which Jesus is an example in Luke 4:14-16; 5:16 & Mark 6:30-46. The life application lesson is "I can follow Jesus' example." The take home verse will be Philippians 2:5.

Day 5: "What do I do now?"

Today we'll hear about the charge to "Go to it and do it!" from Philippians 4:4-9. The life application lesson is "I can live in ways that honor God." The take home verse will be James 1:5.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Annette Eddy, our Youth Ministry leader needs adult volunteers or high school students interested in volunteering for our Vacation Bible School. This is a great opportunity for High School students to earn community service credits. For more information, Contact: Annette at 818-346-0820 ext. 103 or whccucc@gmail.com .

Help support Woodland Hills Community Church, United Church of Christ, through the eScrip program.

WHAT IS ESCRIP?

eScrip is a hassle-free way for us to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants.



and convenient. All you need to do is register your grocery club card and debit/credit card(s).

HOW DOES ESCRIP WORK?

eScrip and hundreds of merchant partners have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to Woodland Hills Community Church. You shop the way you like to shop for groceries, clothing, travel and entertainment. It's simple

HOW DO YOU SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE?

If you have access to the internet, visit www.escrip.com to sign up. You will need our Group #136559558 to sign up or renew your card information online. If you do not have access to the internet, you can obtain a registration form and information from Lyn Owen.

LUAAU

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, * (12:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

**Sponsored by Southern California Nevada United Church of Christ
at "THE QUEEN MARY EVENT PARK"**

This Luau event is coordinated by The Samoan Ministries Table. Join us on the shores of Long Beach to experience a tour of the Pacific Islands Samoan style. Experience a Polynesian Luau with authentic food, Dazzling Dance performances representing each of the Pacific Islands and Musical performances Pacific Island Style. This will also be your opportunity to experience the Samoan Money Dances. You won't want to miss this. This is a chance for UCC Congregations and friends to come together and enjoy the ocean breezes of Long Beach along side the historic Ship "The Queen Mary".

Single tickets general seating not assigned: \$50.00 per ticket or you may reserve a VIP table for 10: \$750.00 Event Parking: \$8.00 Purchase tickets on-line at: sncucc.org/TourOfTheIslands or mail in your tickets to: The Southern California Nevada Conference UCC 2401 N. Lake Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001.

Upgrade option: Take advantage of the reduced room rate and stay aboard for the night. Price: please go to: sncucc.org/TourOfTheIslands for more details.

Olde Tymers

June 11th the Ayer's are graciously hosting the Olde Tymers potluck at their home in the beauty of their backyard at 6:00 pm. RSVP with Jeanne Mowers at 818-225-1802 . Please let her know what you are bringing: hors d'oeuvres, salad, casserole or dessert. The hosts for this event are the Dick & Kathy Ayers, Jeanne Mowers, Ann Mori and Marv & Doreen McNeil. Hope to see you there.

NURSERY
SCHOOL
HAPPENINGS

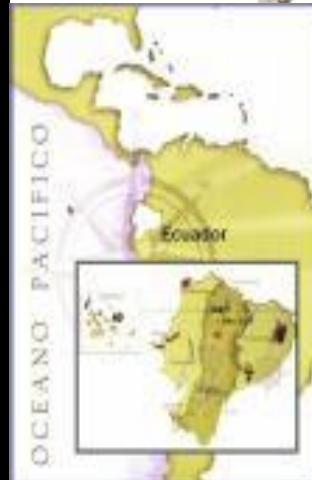
The nursery schools school year is winding down. On May 1st, the nursery school had its big fundraiser, "The Ice Cream Social". It was a great success! There was lots of ice cream, music, magic and bidding at the silent auction. Thank you to everyone who came out for our CPK night. It raised \$200. Our last restaurant night will be at Chuck E Cheese on June 2nd The last few weeks of school the mobile marine lab will be visiting. The children will get to explore marine life through a "hands-on" presentation. Our "Culmination Sing" will be held on Friday June 11th, as we sing our good-byes to the students that are moving on. This Fall the 2 year olds class currently has a few openings. We are continuing to enroll for our summer mud-pie program. Over the summer all the nursery school classrooms will be painted. Enjoy summer and stay cool.

APECA RECYCLING PROJECT

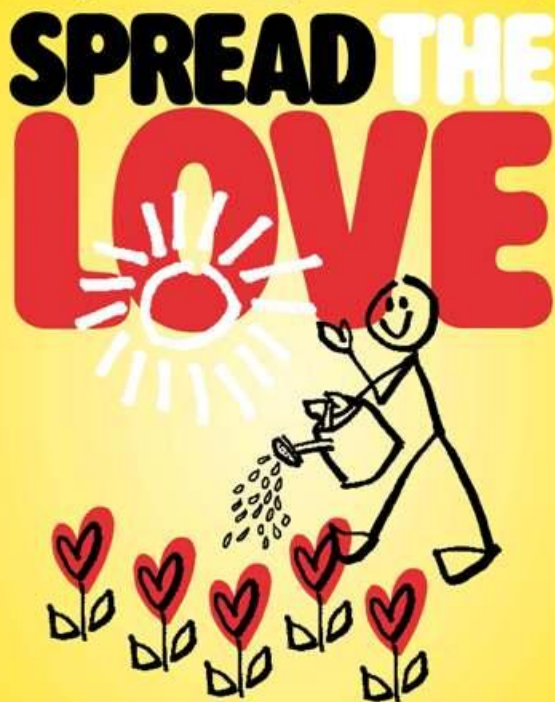
THANK YOU - THANK YOU for all the computer printer cartridges that have been turned into \$\$ for APECA. This recycling project has been successful as a small, yet stable, source of much-needed funds to help sustain Gina Low's work in the isolated villages along the Amazon in Peru.

The "C" in APECA stands for Conservation, and protecting and conserving the Rainforest is a primary goal of APECA. Recycling is good for the environment and is an easy way to support APECA. Please deposit your used inkjet cartridges in the basket in the Narthex.

Another option is to purchase new re-manufactured cartridges at Crazy Inkjets, 4867 Topanga Canyon Blvd. (near Du-metz). Be sure to mention APECA, and a percentage of your computer/printer supplies will be donated to APECA.



Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering



On Sunday, June 13 – we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it aids the God is Still Speaking Ministry to spread our message of inclusively.

Directed to local Conferences, Local Church Ministries and the Still speaking Ministry, Strengthen the Church gifts help to create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome. Additional information will be in the Sunday bulletin or <http://www.ucc.org/stc/stc-frequently-asked.html>



**Don't Miss
Music Sunday!
June 13th**

**Come celebrate our
many
musicians and the joy
they bring us**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
NEVADA CONFERENCE
JUNE 11 & 12**

The Annual Gathering for the Southern California Nevada Conference will be Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12 at First Congregational Church in Santa Ana. You can register online at:

<http://www.signmeup.com/69052>.

Registration deadline is May 31.

Sunday, June 13, 2010

Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Immediately following our Music Sunday church service, we will hold a Congregational

Meeting to vote on the 2010-2011 slate of church officers.



Meet The Candidate for Conference Minister

The Rev. Felix Villanueva

The SCNCUCC Search Committee was charged at Annual Conference in June of 2008 to find the right candidate to lead our Conference into our future. After receiving profiles and interviewing some very fine candidates, we are pleased to unanimously recommend Felix Villanueva as our new Conference Minister. Our Board of Directors confirms our choice.

The Rev. Felix Villanueva is a native of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. He was ordained in 1982 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has been the Senior Minister at the United Church of Christ of La Mesa since 2005.

Felix spent 21 years as a U.S. Navy Chaplain. At the time of retirement in 2003, he held the rank of U.S. Navy Captain. His last assignment was as Division Chaplain, 1st Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton, California. His tours of duty cover a wide spectrum from sea duty to chapel programs worldwide. The Rev. Villanueva had the opportunity to serve in the Far East while stationed in the Republic of the Philippines. He has also participated in humanitarian rescue operations in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Haiti. In March 2003, Felix was called to go into Iraq as American forces prepared for the war. He spent three months in Iraq where he led 28 chaplains representing 12 religious bodies in ministering to U.S. Forces as they moved from Kuwait City to Baghdad. Felix retired from military duty shortly after returning from Iraq.

Shortly after retirement from the U.S. Navy, Felix served as Chaplain for VITAS Innovative Hospice Care in San Diego. Felix has served as member of the Board of Directors of the UCC and Chair of the Southern Association Church and Ministry Committee of the Whole. He serves as Advisory Board Member of the Centro Romero for Border Ministries and member of the San Diego County Clinical Pastoral Education Advisory Board. Felix has also served as Board Member of the Ecumenical Council of San Diego County.

Felix is an active member in the East County Progressive Clergy Network. The group meets every month and is composed of clergy from a variety of faith traditions (Unitarian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran-ELCA, Episcopal and UCC), as is open to all clergy in the La Mesa area. In the past, he was the convener of the Navajo Interfaith Clergy Group. Felix has been also active in a wide variety of social justice issues such as LGBT rights, gender equality and immigration issues, to name a few. He has been invited in numerous occasions to speak before groups examining those issues. Felix has also been a guest lecturer at San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. He is currently the president of the Rancho San Diego Kiwanis Club. He has also acted as pro-bono consultant for the East County YMCA and other non-profit community organizations on strategic planning and organizational leadership. The UCC Southern California Nevada Conference has also benefited from his expertise in strategic planning through the various workshops he has offered at Annual Gatherings and Vitality Events.

The Reverend Villanueva holds a Bachelor Degree in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico, a Masters Degree in Divinity from the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, and a Masters Degree in Pastoral Counseling from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

On a personal level Felix enjoys a wide variety of interests to include: playing guitar, golf, reading, outdoor activities, computer technology, auto mechanics and discovering new venues for personal growth.

Felix is married to his best friend and life-partner, Sherry. Between them they have four grown children, Carlos, Jeanyvette, Jean (Jon), and Denay. They also show a lot of pride in their four grandchildren: Cailin, Cole, Isaac, and Gabriel.

As our new candidate has been quoted to say, "I approach ministry from a perspective of community. I have a deep sense of call. I have prayerfully sought discernment over this decision, and I consider myself to be a person of deep faith and spirituality. We are called to embrace, respect and value each culture, as well as each other. God does not make exceptions, but rather, ours is a God of abundant love for all."

The SCNCUCC Search Committee has prayerfully considered this decision after a process of almost two years and feels with a great sense of joy, that the Spirit has led us to present the Reverend Felix Villanueva to be our next Conference Minister. **Editors. Note:** WHCC's Lyn Owen was one of the seven members of the Search Committee. Thanks, Lyn!



“**W**ar is contrary to the will of God.” These words were echoed by the Rev. Michael Kinnamon last week at an interfaith gathering to mark the opening of the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Conference at the U.N. Rev. Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, repeated these words from the first assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in 1948, three years after the end of WWII. Listening to these words, I was struck by both their power...and their age.

Where is the unified faith voice today reacting to our current wars and militarism? Where are the faith voices working the reign of a Just Peace? Where is the peace movement? You may be pleased and surprised to hear that those voices are still there- many where they’ve always been- if you listen. Churches and peace organizations calling for peace is hardly a story that will take top coverage on CNN’s Wolf Blitzer’s “Situation Room.” Yet, there are some recent and upcoming events and discussions that I believe are worthy of attention- if not from Wolf, maybe from you.

The first is the recent [Truth Commission on Conscience and War](#) held March 21st-22nd at the Riverside Church in New York.^[i] This event brought together faith leaders, legal experts, and military veterans and chaplains to hear testimonies and update the conversation on religious Conscientious Objection (CO) to war. The report from the commission is yet to be released, but the discussion sparked a wave of new dialogue on CO and new regional commissions are planned for later this year. What is clear from the proceedings is that the current CO system is

outdated, if not broken, and does not fit our current methods of conducting war or a broader religious spectrum of opposition to war.

U.S. policy states that only those who are “conscientiously opposed to participation in war in *any* form” can be discharged or assigned to non-combatant service. A system that allows for “selective” conscientious objection, that includes non-pacifist traditions and rejection of specific tactics, such as the use of torture, is needed. Our moral consciousness needs to be brought up to date to match our innovation in military technology.

A second movement is the upcoming World Council of Church’s [International Ecumenical Peace Convocation](#) (IEPC) to take place in Kingston, Jamaica in 2011.^[ii] This gathering will celebrate the Decade to Overcome Violence and the release of an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace currently being drafted. This document will be released at the IEPC and will be commended for study by member churches in preparation for the 10th WCC General Assembly in 2013. For the United Church of Christ, this is a welcome development given our own history as a [Just Peace denomination](#)^[iii]. Study materials on the IEPC are available on the WCC’s website and interested individuals are invited to attend a [Peace Among the Peoples Conference](#) pre-event in the U.S. in Elkhart, IN this summer.^[iv]

These are simply two events going on that illustrate that the peace movement is there, if just below the surface. Where is the peace movement? It’s alive and well waiting for you to engage it. See you there?

The United Church of Christ has more than 5,300 churches throughout the United States. Rooted in the Christian traditions of congregational governance and covenantal relationships, each UCC setting speaks only for itself and not on behalf of every UCC congregation. UCC members and churches are free to differ on important social issues, even as the UCC remains principally committed to unity in the midst of our diversity.

^[i] <http://www.conscienceinwar.org/>

^[ii] <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/peace-convocation.html>

^[iii] <http://www.ucc.org/justice/peacemaking/a-just-peace-church-1.html>

^[iv] <http://www.peace2010.net/>

Report from Youth Musical Theatre

"INTO THE WOODS", concluded its run with the Sunday, May 23rd matinee. Thanks to everyone who supported the cast and crew by coming and to those who helped put the production together. We couldn't have done it without your involvement. (A more complete acknowledgement will be given to all our helpers at the cast celebration on June 6th.)

Youth Musical Theatre now looks forward to beginning the preparation process for next year's show, "RAGTIME". We also look forward to our Summer Musical Theatre Workshop, which is open to all current cast members, plus anyone new entering grades six through twelve in the fall.

The workshop will be held on five Tuesday nights, July 13, 20, 27, and August 3, and 10, from 7:00 to 9:30pm, in the Sanctuary. The workshop will help its attendees develop better performance skills, become better music readers, and will introduce some of the great music in next year's show. The workshop will also help to prepare participants for auditioning processes. More information about the workshop can be obtained by contacting Youth Musical Theatre Director, Bruce Barbee, at (818) 884-9909. There is no charge for the workshop.

Letters to the Editor

Walter Nasarenko writes:

Thank you to everyone for your support and your expressions of sympathy after my mother's death. She died peacefully at Presbyterian Homes, a very caring facility in Roseville, Minnesota. On my last visit to Pres. Homes, as in my previous ones, I was comforted by the following words which are prominently displayed near the entrance: I have created and cared for you since you were born. I will be your God through your lifetime. I made you and I will care for you. (Isaiah 46:3b-4a)

Ralph Rea writes:

Michelle Lampert will graduate from Los Alamitos High School this year. She will be going to Chapman University in the Fall. At Chapman's Founders Day Celebration March 20, 2010, she received the award for the outstanding incoming freshman. This was the first time in several years the award went to a member of a UCC church rather than a DOC church. Michelle is secretary of our Southern California Nevada Round Table and also secretary of the National UCC Board for Youth and Young Adults. She attends National meetings in Cleveland. Michelle Lampert is the granddaughter of WHCC members Ralph and Patti Rea and the daughter of Kathe (former member of WHCC) and Dave Lampert of the Los Altos UCC.



God's Salt - Church life

Grief Support Group Arrives June 10

Beginning June 10 Woodland Hills Community Church will host a grief support group run by Kaiser's Hospice program. The support group - provided free of charge to ALL persons in the community - will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM in the chapel. Attendees do not need to be members of Kaiser in order to participate. The group is open to individuals from all faith traditions as well as those who claim no faith tradition.

The Over 50 Women's Group will resume in September after a summer hiatus. At that time any new people who would like to join will be most welcome.

Retired Men's group will not meet the 1st Wednesday of the month but will bump up a week to meet on June 9th 2 10:00 AM in Smith lounge. This gathering will only take August off.

It Happened In June

In 1949, the WHCC Time Capsule was closed. It was to be opened in fifty years, in 1999. Unfortunately, the Time Capsule was apparently forgotten. After much searching, and after reviewing the files, the Capsule was located in the North West corner of Harter Hall behind a stone block (which did not mention the Capsule). It was opened in February of 2000 with members of the Church and Scouts from Troop 54 in attendance. The Capsule contained contemporary news articles pertaining to WHCC and lists of then current members and officers. There was also memorabilia prepared by Boy Scout Troop 54. Reverend Melvin H. Harter (for whom Harter Hall is named) officiated at the closing supported by other Church leaders and representatives from Troop 54. The original files can be seen in the Cathleen Benedict Memorial Library in the Narthex.
Lou Benedict – WHCC Historian

Interested in Becoming a Member

Are you interested in becoming a member of Woodland Hills Community Church? We will offer a three session new member class in June for those interested. The first session will provide an overview of the United Church of Christ; the second will explore the history of Woodland Hills Community Church; and the third will provide ways you can get involved in the community. Please see Pastor Craig if you would like to be a part of the next new member class.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Planning Event Those individuals interested in serving in a leadership capacity for events connected with next January's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's appearance at Woodland Hills Community Church and Canoga Park High School are invited to attend the next planning meeting on May 27 from 7:00-8:00 PM in Smith Lounge.

Bible Study Group

Due to the Tuesday US elections taking place in Smith Lounge June 8th . The Bible Study Group will meet in the Chapel at the usual time of 2:00 PM.

Youth Activities

Kate Bishop will be hosting a "Lock In" with the Youth on June 4th @ 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Monday Night Covenant Group:

We will meet on Mon. June 21st and not 1st Mon. of the month.

Bible Study, Lunch Bunch & Thursday Night Covenant Groups

These groups will take both July & August off this summer and resume in September.

Spiritual Deepening and Living the Questions Group

These groups will be take all (3) months off, June, July and August.

West Valley Food Pantry

FOODS OF THE MONTH:

Rice
Beans
Peanut Butter

Rice and Beans are still on the most needed list items along with Peanut Butter and Tuna. These proteins items are used in each clients monthly allotment of food. ~ Etta Hulett

Happy Father's Day ~ June 20th~



Visit us
on the Web

Check Out
Our New
Look At

www.whucc.info

AND

New Email: webmaster@gmail.com

David Keddle our WebMaster



Birthdays

2	Vanita Gilbertson	12	Dinora Cardoso
	Dorothy Hansen	17	Craig Peterson
	John Smilanic	19	Michelle Fine
4	Susan Eastman	23	Ian Eastman
9	Suzanne Clarke	25	June Mulcahy
11	Linda Woods	29	Irmgard Huzel

Name left off the list? Contact the Church Office!

Special Thanks



The WHCC sponsored Youth Musical Theatre's presentation of 'Into the Woods' was another wonderful success thanks to the long and hard work by Bruce Barbee and Ray Saar. As set

builder I would like to thank all of parents who helped to transform our sanctuary into an enchanted forest and then back again into a church sanctuary. But an extra thank you goes to all the members who don't have kids in the play who but just showed up to help. A special thanks goes to Joe Schuh who appeared to help just when I thought that we weren't going to make our schedule. And of course I want to thank my lovely wife, Lyn, who was there for the duration.

Bill Owen



who's Focus is a publication of the
Woodland Hills Community Church
21338 Dumetz Road
Woodland Hills CA 91364

Phone: (818) 346-0820 ♦ Fax: (818) 992-6985 ♦ Email: whucco@gmail.com
Craig Peterson, Pastor Dianne Meyer, Director of Music Programs
Signe Hardesty, Pastoral Assistant

Lisa Marlow, Nursery School Director
Annette Eddy, Children's Program Coordinator
Judy Jordan, Chair, Board of Trustees
Lyn Owen, Moderator
Pam McCoy, Administrative Assistant
Jim Hardesty, Editor

Last, ... But Not Least

SAVE THE DATES

*Summer Festival
August 7th*

*Tour of the Pacific Island Luau
August 21st*

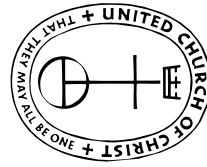
*UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns National
July 14-17*

The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns will hold their national gathering this July 14-17 in San Diego. The gathering will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the General Synod resolution calling for local churches and church settings to declare themselves Open & Affirming. Registration for the event is \$119 per person if you register by May 15. You can register online at https://www.regonline.com/national_gathering_2010

Youth Musical Theater Workshops

*(5) Tuesday Nights, July 13, 20, 27, and August 3, and 10, from 7:00 to 9:30pm,
in the Sanctuary.*

*No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



*An Open & Affirming, Just Peace
& Progressive Congregation*

Whice Focus
WOODLAND HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
(United Church of Christ) (818) 346-0820
21338 Dunetz Road
Woodland Hills CA 91364
Return Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL

Woodland Hills Community Church, June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																														
		1 7:00 PM Sacred Grounds, Starbuck's at Topanga & Dumetz	2 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, @ Chapel	3 7:00 PM Thursday Night Cove- nant Group@ Smith Lounge	4 6:00 PM Youth "Lock In" Night	5																																																																																																																														
6 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Group @ Sanctuary 11:15 AM Spirit Express Choir, @ Sanctuary <i>Communion Service</i>	7	8 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM California State Elections @ Smith Lounge 9:00 AM Nursery Board, @ HH 2:00 PM Bible Study @ Chapel 7:00 PM Church Council & Trustees, Chapel/201	9 10:00 AM Retired Men's Club @ Smith Lounge 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, @ Chapel	10 6:30 PM Grief Workshop	11 6:00 PM Olde Tymers @ Ayer's Home	12 9:00 AM Grounds Work Day																																																																																																																														
13 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Group @ Sanctuary 11:15 AM Spirit Express Choir, @ Sanctuary 11:30 AM Youth Confirmation Class	14	15 9:00 AM FOCUS Deadline 7:00 PM Sacred Grounds, Starbuck's at Topanga & Dumetz	16 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, @ Chapel	17 6:30 PM Grief Workshop 7:00 PM Thursday Night Cove- nant Group@ Smith Lounge	18	19																																																																																																																														
20 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Group @ Sanctuary 11:15 AM Spirit Express Choir, @ Sanctuary	21 7:15 PM Monday Night Cove- nant Group location TBD 7:30 PM New Beginings, Loca- tion TBD	22 7:00 PM Sacred Grounds, Starbuck's at Topanga & Dumetz	23 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, @ Chapel	24 6:30 PM Grief Workshop 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Planing Committee @ Smith Lounge	25	26																																																																																																																														
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Vacation Bible School																																																																																																																																				
27 10:00 AM Worship & Youth Group @ Sanctuary 11:15 AM Spirit Express Choir, @ Sanctuary 11:30 AM Youth Confirmation Class	28 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch, SL	29 6:00 PM Facilities Team, SL 7:00 PM Sacred Grounds, Starbuck's at Topanga & Dumetz	30 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, @ Chapel	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th colspan="7">May</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>			May							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19		20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																													
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